In The Claims

Rewrite Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 in amended form.

1. (Amended) A decorative cap and wheel fastener assembly for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;

b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;

c) said body including another section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and

d) a cap including one wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;

e) said cap further including another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section, said wall segment being formed of radially deformable sheet material;

f) said insert body and said cap being assembled by being press fit together, the external dimensions of said circular cylindrical cross-section surface on said body being greater than the internal dimensions of said circular cylindrical cross-section surface in said cap prior to assembly whereby said other wall segment is deformed radially outwardly to form an interference fit between said other wall segment and said other body section when said insert body and said cap are assembled.

3. (Amended) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

a) the diameter of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap is 0.010 to 0.030 less than the diameter of said external cylindrical surface on said insert prior to assembly of said cap and wheel fastener and said cap is formed of elastically deformable sheet material.

5. (Amended) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

a) said deformation establishing an interference fit is between 0.002 and 0.006 inches around the said external and internal circular cylindrical surfaces.

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6. (Amended) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

a) said internal polygonal surface is seated over said external polygonal surface on said insert in a non-interference fit relationship.

Cancel Claims 11-14 without prejudice.

11. (Canceled) A method of assembling a decorative cap and wheel nut or bolt insert comprising the steps of:

a) forming an insert with a section having a polygonal external cross-section axially displaced from a section having circular cylindrical external cross-section;

b) applying a plating and/or a coating to the insert so at least the exterior of said section having an external circular cylindrical section is plated and/or coated;

c) forming a decorative cap of sheet material with a segment leaving a polygonal cross-section and a segment having a circular cylindrical cross-section axially displaced from each other, the polygonal cross-section segment having internal dimensions greater than the corresponding external dimensions of said polygonal section on said insert and the circular cylindrical cross-section segment having internal

dimensions less than the corresponding external dimensions of said circular cylindrical section on said insert; and

d) press fitting said insert into said cap so as to form an interference fit between the plated and/or coated circular cylindrical surfaces of said insert and the circular cylindrical surface of said cap.

12. (Canceled) The method of Claim 11 further characterized in that:

a) said insert is coated with a chromium free coating material.

13. (Canceled) The method of Claim 11 further characterized in that:

a) an interference fit of between 0.002 and 0.006 inches is formed between said circular cylindrical surfaces.

14. (Canceled) The method of Claim 13 further characterized by and including the step of:

a) crimping an edge of said cap under a mating undercut on said insert body.

Please add the following claims 15-22.

15. (New) The assembly of a decorative cap and wheel fastener insert for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;

b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;

c) said body further including another section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and

d) a cap including one wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;

e) said cap further including another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section; and

f) said cap being formed of elastically deformable sheet material and the cross-sectional dimensions of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap being less than the cross-sectional dimensions of said cylindrical surface on said body whereby when the wheel fastener insert and the cap are assembled said one wall segment is deformed radially outwardly of said axis for a distance of at least 0.002 inches.

16. (New) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 15 further characterized in that:

a) said external surfaces are coated with another material to a thickness of approximately 0.001 inches.

17. (New) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 16 further characterized in that:

a) said coating material is chromium free.

18. (New) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 15, 16 or 17 further characterized in that:

a) said radial deformation is between 0.002 and 0.006 inches around the said external and internal circular cylindrical cross-section surfaces.

19. (New) The cap and fastener assembly of Claims 1, 15, 16 or 17 further characterized in that:

a) said external and internal circular cylindrical cross-section surfaces are free of adhesive material.

20. (New) The decorative cap and wheel fastener assembly of Claims 1, 7 or 15 further characterized in that:

a) said cap is formed of stainless steel sheet which is plastically and elastically deformable;

b) both plastic and elastic deformation of said wall segment outwardly of said axis takes place when said insert body and cap are assembled.

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21. (New) A decorative cap and wheel fastener combination for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;

b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;

c) said body further including a section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and

d) a cap including a wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;

e) the cross-sectional dimensions of said internal polygonal surface in said cap being at least as large as the cross-sectional dimensions of said external polygonal surface on said body;

f) said cap further including one wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section;

g) the cross-sectional dimensions of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap being less than the cross-sectional dimensions of said cylindrical surface of said body;

h) said insert body adapted to be press fit into said cap whereby an interference fit will be established between said one external and internal circular cylindrical surfaces.

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22. (New) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 21 further characterized in that:

a) said cap is formed of elastically deformable sheet material.

b) the diameter of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap is 0.010 to 0.030 less than the diameter of said external cylindrical surface on said insert.